



SUSAN VAN DER WAL

CONCEPT 2: SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES



BRUCE FANWORTH

Overview

Under this concept, park management would be focused on the preservation of native species and natural processes and the restoration of biodiversity. Wilderness and natural zoning would be expanded to enhance the natural qualities of the park. Changes in land use would increase scenic qualities and expand habitat for native species. As a result, the cultural landscape zone would be reduced through time. Ranches with significant historical integrity would continue to be preserved. Visitor experience would shift to activities with low environmental impacts as wilderness and natural zones expand. The trend throughout the Seashore would be toward fewer buildings and facilities.

Cultural Resources Management

Under this option, cultural resources would be managed to preserve the most historically significant sites and structures. Historic structures would be maintained to the best possible level of protection. At a

minimum, all statewide and nationally significant sites would be preserved for public enjoyment. Beef and dairy operations would continue until original permittees discontinue ranching activities. Archeological sites would be documented and protected. Sacred and endangered archeological sites would also receive priority and be protected and maintained.

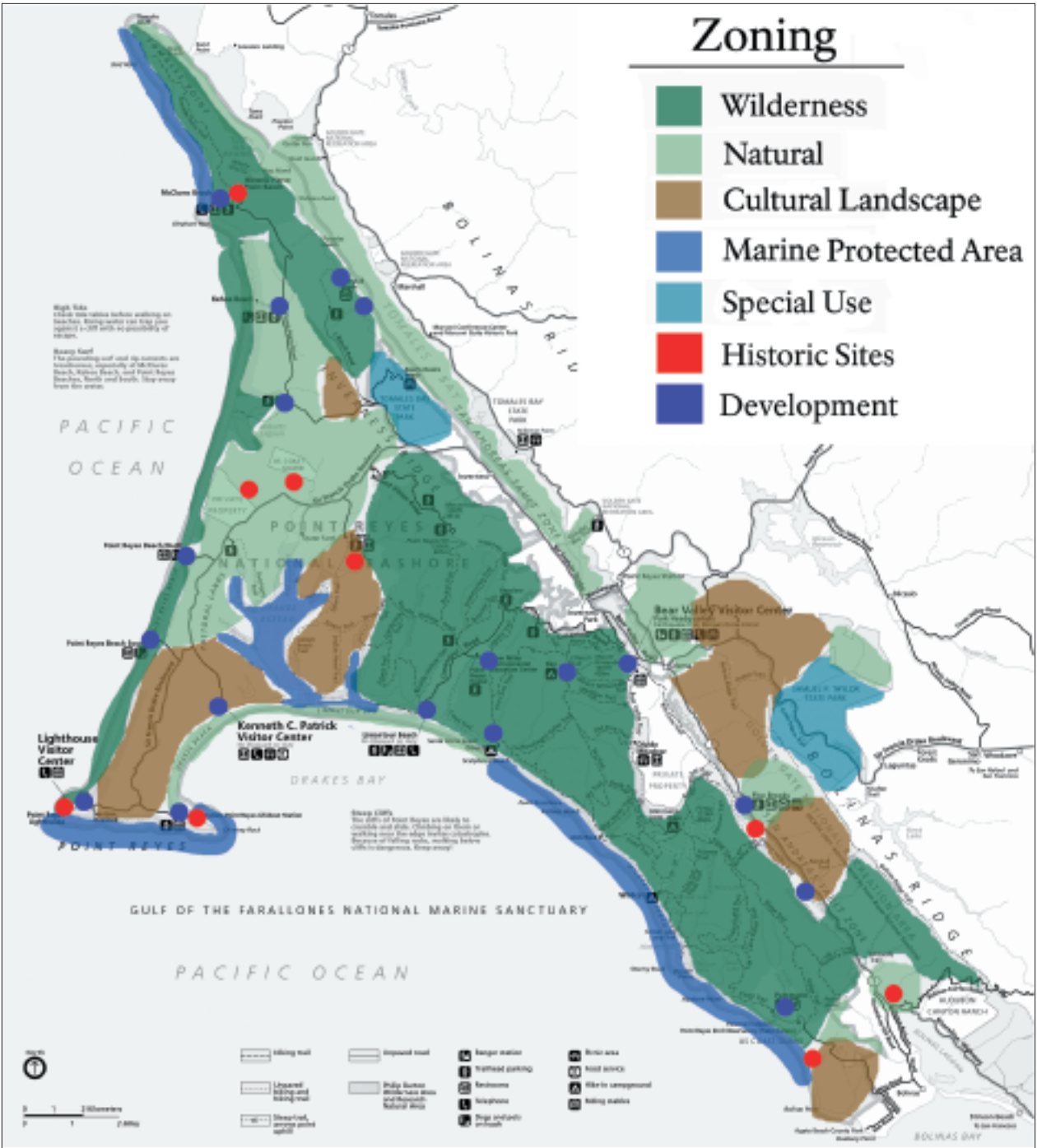
Natural Areas, Wilderness and Resource Management

Resource preservation and restoration would be the overriding consideration in the parks. Under this concept, park managers would expand wilderness and natural areas and give greater focus to ecosystem preservation and restoration. To improve ecological integrity, invasive exotic species removal efforts would be expanded. Scientific research and species monitoring would be expanded to gather more baseline data on ecosystem health and population trends. Marine protected areas and research facilities could be created (in cooperation with California Department of Fish & Game) to better understand and preserve the ocean environment that surrounds the park.

Visitor Opportunities and Experiences

Under this concept, there would be more opportunities for solitude and improved wildlife viewing and vistas. The visitor opportunities would focus on low-impact activities. Some backcountry camping areas would be altered to promote wilderness camping, and the trail system would be expanded. Beach access, picnic areas and all visitor centers operations would remain open, consistent with current management; however, new exhibits, education programs and waysides would focus on wilderness, resource science and stewardship themes. The winter shuttle operations would continue.

At left: Concept 2 map



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